

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 02494 01 OF 02 060616Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
ICA-11 EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 OES-07 OIC-02
CEQ-01 NRC-05 /131 W
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R 051433Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2587
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 2494

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, MNUC, NL
SUBJECT: US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY

REF: A) STATE 109203, B) STATE 94273, C) STATE 95043

SUMMARY: EMBASSY EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES HAVE FOCUSED ON NEED TO MAXIMIZE CONTINUING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF DIVISIVE POLITICAL DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY

1. SINCE THE CURRENT DUTCH GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE LAST DECEMBER, TWO ISSUES INVOLVING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF US FOREIGN POLICY HAVE TRIGGERED A DEEPLY DIVISIVE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE IN THE NETHERLANDS. THESE ISSUES ARE ERW AND NON-PROLIFERATION, SPECIFICALLY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE GON WOULD AGREE TO DELIVERIES BY URNENCO OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL. AS DEPT IS AWARE (THE HAGUE 311, 438, 542, 605, 1467 AND 1592), FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW HAS MET WITH ROUGH GOING IN PARLIAMENT ON BOTH ISSUES AND HIS OVERALL PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN SHAKY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 02494 01 OF 02 060616Z

2. EVER SINCE GON DECIDED LATE DECEMBER TO AGREE TO THE DELIVERY OF ENRICHED URANIUM AND SUBSEQUENTLY WORK OUT PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME, IT HAS COME UNDER HEAVY CRITICISM FOR NOT REQUIRING MORE STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS. IN MID-JANUARY GON COMPOUNDED ITS DIFFICULTIES BY AGREEING TO BACKTRACK IF PARLIAMENT DID NOT AGREE. THIS PRODUCED THE VAN HOUWELINGEN MOTION (THE HAGUE 542)--WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT--

REQUIRING GON TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON A SATISFACTORY STORAGE REGIME BEFORE THE DELIVERY OF ANY ENRICHED URANIUM. SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET GERMAN OR BRITISH AGREEMENT.

3. AS THIS SITUATION DEVELOPED, POLITICAL TENSIONS RAPIDLY MOUNTED. VAN DER KLAUW CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS MOUNTING SENSITIVITY BOTH ON HIS PART AND WITHIN THE MFA ABOUT US POLICIES. WHEN IN THE COURSE OF AN ADDRESS TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY UNDERLINED IN ROUTINE US POLICY TERMS THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS, HIS REMARKS WERE WIDELY TAKEN IN THE MFA AS CRITICISM OF DUTCH POLICY. MOREOVER, BEFORE VAN DER KLAUW VISITED WASHINGTON, THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF CRITICAL COMMENT AROUND TOWN ABOUT THE FACT THAT VAN DER KLAUW WAS NOT FOLLOWING FORMER SOCIALIST FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S PRACTICE OF STAYING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE US ON NON-PROLIFERATION. AS THE DEPT WILL RECALL, THERE WAS SUBSTANCE BEHIND THESE CHARGES (THE HAGUE 311).

4. THROUGHOUT, A NUMBER OF REPORTERS FOR LEADING NATIONAL DAILIES HAVE FOLLOWED URENCO DEVELOPMENTS ASSIDUOUSLY. THEY HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY. FOCUS OF THEIR INQUIRIES HAS BEEN COMPATIBILITY OF GON APPROACH WITH US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. THEY WERE AWARE THAT VAN DER KLAUW WOULD DISCUSS NON-PROLIFERATION DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT AND HAD SOME INCOMPLETE INFORMATION FROM MFA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 02494 01 OF 02 060616Z

5. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED TO BE THE TARGET OF URGENT AND CONTINUOUS PRESS AND OTHER INQUIRIES. ONE OPTION WAS TO WAIT FOR NEXT PARLIAMENTARY ROUND (YET TO OCCUR; AFTER THE GON EXHAUSTS ITS CURRENT EFFORTS WITH THE GERMANS AND THE BRITISH), WHICH COULD PUT US IN THE POSITION OF APPEARING TO LINE UP WITH ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IN THE DEBATE. DESPITE OUR REQUEST PURSUANT TO REF B THAT VAN DER KLAUW CLEAR ANY COMMENTS ABOUT US VIEWS WITH US, HIS SOMEWHAT CAVALIER ASSURANCE TO THE CHARGE AFTER HIS RETURN THAT HE THOUGHT HE KNEW THE MATTER WELL ENOUGH NOT TO REQUIRE SUCH AN EXCHANGE LEFT LITTLE ROOM FOR CONFIDENCE. THE OTHER OPTION WAS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH KEY REPORTERS RIGHT AWAY AND EXPLAIN THE US POSITION SO THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS RISK OF MISUNDERSTANDING WHEN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OCCURRED.

6. EMBASSY BRIEFING DREW ON REFS B AND C AND STRESSED THAT WE WERE EXPLAINING OUR POSITION NOW TO AVOID ANY PROBLEMS DURING

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 2494

THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION. THOSE BRIEFED SAID THEY
UNDERSTOOD. THE MFA HAS TOLD US IT WARMLY WELCOMED OUR
INITIATIVE WHICH HELPED BUTTRESS VAN DER KLAUW'S ASSERTIONS
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE TRIPARTITE CONSORTIUM ALIVE.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ONE ARTICLE BY AN SALOMONSON, WHICH
CONTAINED DISTORTION MENTIONED REF A, THOSE BRIEFED RESPECTED
TERMS OF BACKGROUND BRIEFING. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE NYE
ARTICLE IN "FOREIGN AFFAIRS," OF WHICH WE DISTRIBUTED COPIES
AT THE BRIEFING--AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO A WIDER AUDIENCE--HAS
BEEN ENORMOUSLY HELPFUL.

7. WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATIONS OF ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN EITHER
ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY OR THE LOCAL GERMAN PRESS.

8. MFA IS QUITE CLEAR ON OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ENRICH-
MENT FACILITIES IN GRONAU, AS SET OUT REFS B AND C, AND WE
HAVE, OF COURSE, SEEN TO IT THAT ANY FALSE IMPRESSIONS ARE
CORRECTED.

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